

Book reviews

Exfoliative Cytology in Gynaecological Practice

by Erica G Wachtel MD(vienna)

pp xiii + 203 illustrated 45s

London: Butterworths 1964

This work is exceedingly timely now that the value of cytology in diagnosis and treatment has become accepted in this country. Although earlier cytological studies were carried out in England, the methods were utilized later on a wider scale in America. Dr Wachtel has had a long experience in gynaecological cytology and has pioneered her subject persistently in spite of some initial unwillingness on the part of pathologists to accept it. This book embodies her invaluable experience and she deals not only with laboratory technique, but also with interpretation of cellular changes in vaginal cytology, both neoplastic and nonneoplastic. It is exceedingly easy to read and one is struck by the clearness and conciseness of the statements which are, in addition, well illustrated. The effect of hormones has always complicated this branch of cytology and made it difficult for the beginner. It is gratifying to see this matter dealt with so excellently. Now that there is widespread demand for trained cytologists and cytotechnologists this book would seem to be essential, to provide a complete guide to the subject for both types of workers. One can confidently predict that this work will be widely welcomed, but many may hesitate to purchase it at 45s, a price which seems rather exorbitant for a small book.

GEORGE J CUNNINGHAM

Fluorescent Protein Tracing

edited by R C Nairn MD PhD(L'pool) FCPATH MCPA

2nd ed pp xv + 335 illustrated 45s

Edinburgh & London: E & S Livingstone 1964

Proteins chemically conjugated with suitable fluorochromes advertise their presence when they are exposed to ultraviolet light; if they reach tissues *in vivo*, or are able to combine with tissue components *in vitro*, they may then be readily localized by ultraviolet microscopy. Among the chief applications of this method of labelling is immunofluorescence, the technique devised and developed by A H Coons, in which antibody (or sometimes antigen) is conjugated with fluorescein or rhodamine to provide a fluorescent tracer with immunological specificity.

There are numerous possible ways of using immunofluorescence in medicine and biology, and most of these have now been exploited so vigorously and in so many different situations that the task of reviewing them comprehensively has

become an almost impossible one. In this second edition of their book, Professor Nairn and his collaborators follow the plan of the first, dealing with the chemistry of fluorochromes, the preparation and properties of conjugates, the methods of microscopy and photomicrography using UV light, and the use of conjugates in medicine and biology. By judicious selection they have retained the character of the book, which provides a general survey of immunofluorescence and is thus of particular value to those interested but unfamiliar with the scope and versatility of the method. To the tyro who wants to teach himself immunofluorescence – and anyone who works with this method meets an increasing number of these – this book may not be the whole answer. Despite Professor Nairn's observations in his preface, there are certainly some readers who would like to see, in the next edition, the all-important practical procedures dealt with in bench detail and separately from the main body of the text.

E J HOLBOROW

Experimental Surgery

Including Surgical Physiology

by J Markowitz MBE MB(TOR)

PHD MS in Exp Surg(Minn),

J Archibald DVM MVSc(TOR)

DR med vet(Giessen) MRCVS

and H G Downie DVM(TOR) MS(Cornell)

MVSc(TOR) PhD(Western Ontario)

5th ed pp xi + 659 illustrated 104s

Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins 1964

London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox

The title of 'Experimental Surgery including Surgical Physiology' covers a vast field and, indeed, it would be impossible to do all this in one book. In fact, this work is a varied collection of information and the authors explain their system in the preface, where they say 'We keep a large box handy into which we throw such scraps of information, references and reprints as may be useful for our next edition'. This is followed by a request for reprints on new work. The book is therefore necessarily scrappy but nevertheless invaluable. 'Experimental surgery' is intended as almost synonymous with animal experimentation, particularly in the dog, and there is much basic information on the care of animals, anaesthesia and other things available here for convenient reference. This new edition will be most valuable to all medical centres where research involving animal experimentation is carried on.

J B KINMONTH